BY DPTY CLK.  DATE  FAFARD REAL ESTATE & DEVELOPMENT CORP.,  Plaintiff,  vs.  METRO-BOSTON BROADCASTING, INC.,  Defendant,  Defendant,  Defendant,  NAME AND SEASON DEVELOPMENT CORP.,  MAGISTRATE JUDGE YOULGE	WAIVER FORMFOR THE DISTRIC	ES DISTRICT COURT T OF MASSACHUSETTS
Plaintiff,  vs.  METRO-BOSTON BROADCASTING, INC.,  MAGISTRATE & DEVELOPMENT CORP.,  Plaintiff,  O 4 - 11531RG;  MAGISTRATE JUDGE ON MAGISTRATE JUD		- 100mm - 120mm - 12
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METRO-BOSTON BROADCASTING, SINC., MAGISTRATE JUDGE ON MAGISTRATE J	Plaintiff,	
) MAGISTRATE JUDGE POLICE	vs.	CIVIL ACTION NO.
Defendant, ) MAGISTRATE JUDGE Joulu	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<b>0</b> 4 - 11531 RGS
	Defendant, )	MAGISTRATE JUDGE Jowles

#### **NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(a)(1), 1441, and 1446, defendant Metro-Boston Broadcasting, Inc. removes the action described below from the Superior Court for Middlesex County, Massachusetts to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. The removed action is known as <u>Fafard Real Estate & Development Corp. v. Metro-Boston Broadcasting, Inc.</u>, Middlesex Civil Action No. 2004-2282, and was commenced on June 2, 2004.

#### Jurisdiction And Grounds For Removal

1. This is a civil action over which this Court has original jurisdiction under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1332, and may be removed to this Court by defendant pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1441 because it is a civil action between citizens of different states and the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars

(\$75,000.00), exclusive of interest and costs.

- a. According to the complaint, plaintiff Fafard Real Estate & Development Corp.
   is a Massachusetts corporation, with its principal place of business in Ashland,
   Massachusetts.
- b. Defendant Metro-Boston Broadcasting, Inc. was, at the time this action was filed in state court, and still is a Texas corporation, with its principal place of business at 8411 Preston Road, Dallas, Texas. It was not and is not a citizen of Massachusetts.
- c. Plaintiff seeks specific performance of a real estate purchase and sale agreement in which the stated price for the land is \$339,000. Therefore, the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), exclusive of interest and costs.
- 2. Copies of all process, pleadings, and orders served on the defendant are attached to this Notice of Removal.
- 3. Defendants received, through service or otherwise, a copy of the complaint upon which the removed action is based within the last thirty days.
- 4. Complete diversity of citizenship exists between the plaintiff, which is a citizen of Massachusetts, and defendant, which is a citizen of Texas.
- 5. Defendant will file a copy of this Notice of Removal with the Clerk of the Superior Court for Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and will give notice of same to counsel for plaintiff.
- 6. By filing this notice of removal, defendant does not submit to personal jurisdiction in the state or federal courts of Massachusetts. Defendant reserves all of its

defenses and objections, including without limitation any defenses or objections based on lack of jurisdiction, improper venue, insufficiency of process, and insufficiency of service of process.

DATED this 8th day of July, 2004, and signed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 11.

METRO-BOSTON BROADCASTING, INC.

By its attorneys,

Kenneth R. Berman (BBO 040320) Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP

World Trade Center West

155 Seaport Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02210

(617) 439-2000

#### Certificate Of Service

I certify that I served this document today on opposing counsel by hand.

Kenneth R. Berman

July 8, 2004

## Appendix

Document	<u>Exhibit</u>
Summons	1
Verified Complaint	2
Plaintiff Fafard Real Estate & Development Corp.'s Motion for Special Process Server	3
Motion for Endorsement of Lis Pendens	4
Memorandum of Lis Pendens	5
Special Motion to Dismiss	6
Defendant's Memorandum in Support of Its Special Motion to Dismiss and in Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion to Endorse Lis Pendens	7
Affidavit of Mary Heller Halcomb in Support of Defendant's Special Motion to Dismiss and in Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion to Endorse <i>Lis Pendens</i>	8
Affidavit of Kenneth R. Berman in Support of Defendant's Special Motion to Dismiss and in Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion to Endorse <i>Lis Pendens</i>	9
Opposition of Plaintiff Fafard Real Estate Development Corp. to Special Motion to Dismiss	10
Superior Court Rule 9A Notice of Filing and List of Documents Filed	11
Affidavit of Compliance with Superior Court Rule 9A	12

1343330.1

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL ACTION NO.

FAFARD REAL ESTATE & DEVELOPMENT CORP.	) ) )
Plaintiff,	)
v	)
METRO-BOSTON BROADCASTING, INC.	) ) )
Defendant.	)

### **VERIFIED COMPLAINT**

#### INTRODUCTION

This is an action for breach of, and to enforce, a contract. On January 30, 2001, Plaintiff Fafard Real Estate & Development Corp. ("Fafard") and Defendant Metro-Boston Broadcasting, Inc. ("Metro-Boston") executed a Purchase and Sale Agreement ("P&S Agreement") for the sale to Fafard of real estate in Ashland, Massachusetts ("the Ashland Property").

Fafard intended to develop the Ashland Property for residential use. The P&S Agreement reflected this intention and obligated Metro-Boston to, among other things, prepare a new subdivision plan. Metro-Boston failed to fulfill this and other obligations that were necessary to convey good and clear record and marketable title, and the parties were unable to close on the agreed-upon date. Accordingly, the parties extended the

closing date numerous times, most recently until May 21, 2004. On information and belief, Metro-Boston has failed to prepare the necessary subdivision plan. Metro-Boston also failed to appear at the closing at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, at which F.R.E, appeared ready, willing, and able to perform its obligations under the P&S Agreement. After the close of business hours on May 21, 2004, Metro-Boston sent Fafard a letter purporting to unilaterally terminate the P&S Agreement, having failed to appear at the closing and having never fulfilled its contractual obligations.

#### <u>PARTIES</u>

- 1. Plaintiff Fafard Real Estate & Development Corp. ("Fafard") is a Massachusetts company located in Ashland, Massachusetts.
- 2. Defendant Metro-Boston is the general partner of Tower Sites Limited, with a principle place of business at 8411 Preston Road, Suite 870, Dallas, Texas.

#### <u>JURISDICTION</u>

- 4. Jurisdiction in this Court is proper pursuant to G.L. c. 212, § 4.
- 5. Venue is proper pursuant to G.L. c. 223, § 1.

#### **FACTS**

- 6. Upon information and belief, Metro-Boston is in the business of radio and television transmission.
  - 7. Fafard is in the business of real estate development.

#### Purchase and Sale Agreement

8. On January 31, 2001, Metro-Boston and Fafard executed a Purchase and Sale Agreement ("P&S Agreement") for the sale of three (3) parcels of land in Ashland,

Massachusetts, which are shown as Lots 12 and 6B and a portion of Lot 11 of Plan 16849 ("the Ashland Property"). The P&S Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

- At all material times, Metro-Boston was aware that F.R.E intended to 9. develop the land for residential use.
- The parties agreed to a purchase price for the real estate of \$339,000, 10. \$39,000 of which was paid as a deposit by Fafard.

#### Seller's Obligations

- The P&S Agreement obligated Metro-Boston to convey to Fafard "a good 11. and clear record and marketable title," free from encumbrances. The Agreement expressly excepted certain enumerated encumbrances, including, in relevant part, "easements, restrictions and reservations of record, if any, so long as the same do not prohibit or materially interfere with the said premises for residential development." See Exhibit 1, emphasis added.
- 12. In addition, Metro-Boston was required to provide Fafard with, among other things, a new subdivision plan for the Ashland Property.
- A new subdivision plan was necessary in order to prepare a deed that 13. accurately identified the property being sold.
- The P&S Agreement provided that the sale of the Ashland Property was 14. subject to Fafard's receipt of all necessary permits, including subdivision approval, so as to allow Fafard to develop the land for residential use.
- The P&S Agreement contained two deadlines: a deadline for Fafard's 15. receipt of the necessary permits and approvals by January 30, 2002, and a closing

deadline of "thirty (30) days after receipt of all permits, or by February 28, 2002, whichever is earlier," (collectively, the Closing Deadlines").

## The Parties Mutually Extend the Closing Deadlines

- 16. Metro-Boston did not provide Fafard with a new subdivision plan.
- 17. Upon information and belief, Metro-Boston failed to take any steps necessary to provide Fafard with a new subdivision plan.
- 18. As a result, the parties were unable to close the sale of the Ashland Property on or before the Closing Deadlines.
- 19. Therefore, on January 30, 2002, the parties mutually agreed to extend the permit and approvals deadline until April 30, 2002, and extend the closing date until May 31, 2002.
- 20. Metro-Boston again failed to provide Fafard with new subdivision plan, and the parties were unable again to close on May 31, 2002.
- 21. Thereafter, the parties continued to mutually extend the Closing Deadlines, through and until May 21, 2004.

# Metro-Boston Fails to Fulfill Requirements and Unilaterally Backs Out

- 22. On November 7, 2003, Fafard informed Metro-Boston of certain specific easements, restrictions and encumbrances that continued to exist at the Ashland Property which prevented Fafard from receiving good clear record and marketable title and which materially interfered with Fafard's use of premises for residential development.
- 23. Upon information and belief, Metro-Boston never took any steps necessary to cure the easements, restrictions and encumbrances on the Ashland Property identified by Fafard in the November 7 letter.

- Metro-Boston never provided Fafard with a new subdivision plan, and 24. upon information and belief, Metro-Boston did not make any effort to provide Fafard with a new subdivision plan.
- 25. After the close of business hours on May 21, 2004 -- the evening of the latest extension of the Closing Deadlines -- Metro-Boston purported to unilaterally terminate the Agreement.
  - Metro-Boston failed to appear at the closing on May 21, 2004. 26.

# COUNT I

# (Specific Performance - Preparation of Subdivision Plan)

- Fafard repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the 27. allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 26 as though expressly set forth herein.
- 28. Defendant entered into an enforceable Purchase and Sale Agreement ("P&S Agreement") for the sale to Fafard of real estate in Ashland, Massachusetts.
- Fafard was at all times ready, willing and able to perform under the 29. contract.
- 30, The P&S Agreement requires the Defendant to take steps necessary to give Fafard good and clear record and marketable title.
- The P&S Agreement requires the Defendant to provide Fafard with a new 31. subdivision plan.
- 32. The Defendant failed to take any steps necessary to give Fafard good and clear record and marketable title, including failing to provide Fafard with a new subdivision plan, and in doing so, has failed to perform under the terms of the P&S Agreement.

Fafard is entitled to specific performance of Metro-Boston's contractual 33. obligation to clear the title to the Ashland Property and to prepare, file, and obtain approval of a new subdivision plan identifying the property to be sold.

### COUNT II (Specific Performance - Conveyance of Ashland Property)

- Fafard repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the 34. allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 33 as though expressly set forth herein.
- Defendant entered into an enforceable P&S Agreement for the sale to 35. Fafard of real estate in Ashland, Massachusetts.
- Fafard was at all times ready, willing and able to perform under the 36. contract.
- Fafard appeared at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds on May 21, 37. 2004, the mutually agreed upon closing date, prepared to tender a check for the full purchase price to Defendant.
- Defendant failed to appear at the closing, and in doing so, has failed to 38. perform under the terms of the P&S Agreement.
- 39. Fafard is entitled to specific performance of Metro-Boston's contractual obligation to transfer good and clear record and marketable title to the Ashland Property

#### COUNT III (Breach of Contract)

- Fafard repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the 40. allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 39 as though expressly set forth herein.
- Defendant executed an enforceable P&S Agreement with Fafard for the 41. sale of real estate in Ashland, Massachusetts.

- 42. The P&S Agreement required the Defendant to take steps necessary to give Fafard good and clear record and marketable title, including providing Fafard with a new subdivision plan.
- 43. The Defendant failed to take any steps necessary to give Fafard good and clear record and marketable title, including providing Fafard with a new subdivision plan, and has failed to consummate the real estate transaction.
- 44. Fafard was at all times ready, willing and able to perform under the P&S Agreement.
- 45. The Defendant's failure to take any steps necessary to give Fafard good and clear record and marketable title, including preparation of a new subdivision plan, and failure to consummate the real estate transaction, constitute a breach of the P&S Agreement.
- 46. Fafard has suffered damages as a result of Defendant's breach of the P&S Agreement.

### PRAYERS FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Fafard respectfully prays:

- 1. Under Count I, that Defendant be ordered to prepare new subdivision plan in accordance with the P&S Agreement;
- 2. Under Count II, that Defendant be ordered to convey clear record and marketable title to the premises located at Lots 12 and 6B and a portion of Lot 11 of Plan 16849, Ashland, Massachusetts;
- 3. That the Court award such damages as are appropriate under Count III, including interest;
- 4. That the Court grant such other and additional relief as it may deem appropriate under the facts and circumstances of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

FAFARD REAL ESTATE & DEVELOPMENT CORP.,

By its attorneys,

Jeffrey J. Upton (BBO#552221)

Halye A. Sugarman (BBO#646773)

HANIFY & KING

**Professional Corporation** 

One Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108-3107

(617) 423-0400

DATED: 406692

June 2004

●J\$ 44 (Rev. 3/99)

### CIVIL COVER SHEET

The IS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except a provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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